



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Mar 5 1998
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Serial Number: 08/776,190

Group Art Unit: 1818

Filed: January 24, 1997

Examiner: N. Musto

For: OLIGOMERIC CARRIER MOLECULES WITH DEFINED INCORPORATED
MARKER GROUPS AND HAPten

RECEIVED

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §121

MAR - 6 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 5, 1998

MATRIX CUSTOMER
SERVICE CENTER

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 9, 1997 please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-38, and add the following new claims.

-- 39. A conjugate, comprising a polymeric carrier having a maximum of 100 monomeric units which contains 1-10 hapten molecules and 1-10 marker groups or solid phase binding groups which are coupled to reactive side groups at predetermined positions on the polymeric carrier, wherein the monomeric units are selected from at least one of nucleotides, nucleotide analogues and peptide nucleic acids.